

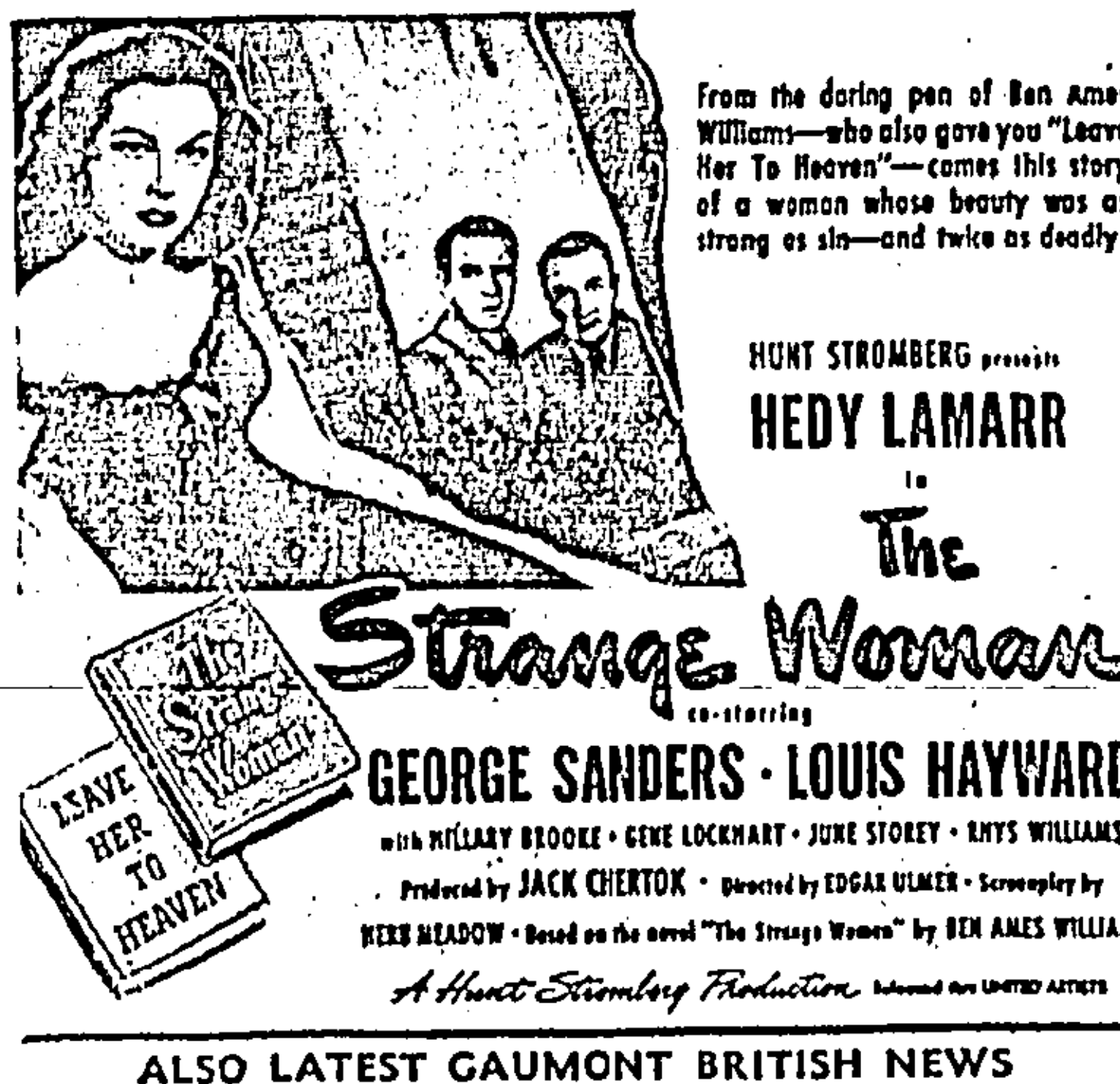
CENTRAL THEATRE

● SHOWING TO-DAY ●
AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.
* FINAL EPISODE *



LEE THEATRE

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE: ST. FRANCIS HOTEL
BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M. DAILY
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ALSO LATEST GAUMONT BRITISH NEWS

ALHAMBRA & CENTRAL

● COMMENCING TO-MORROW ●



"My missus took one look at those 'ore peace plans, then started cleaning me old Home Guard uniform."

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

THE tiny and unpopular British Communist Party has taken several blows lately.

It has been described as Right wing, nearer to Conservatism than Socialism.

Cocky little comrade Dimitrov childishly revealed the true nature of the cult by threatening to hang Bulgarian M.P.s who didn't agree with him.

Then a terrifying picture of Anna Paulk, Rumanian Foreign Minister, was published, reminding people of Tenniel's nightmare drawing of the Ugly Duchess in "Alice in Wonderland."

Finally it was reported that Italian Communist chief Togliatti had "roundly" kissed Harry Pollitt on both cheeks after he had bawled his country out in Milan.

Readers who have never heard of Harry Pollitt might like to know that he is secretary of the British Communist Party.

In the opinion of your Uncle Nat this kissing business was a knock-out blow.

If it doesn't mean the end of British Communism it will probably mean the end of Harry Pollitt as a political figure.

At one time, if an Englishman travelling abroad was unlucky enough to be kissed by a male foreigner his family tried to keep it dark.

If anybody wanted to talk about it afterwards the children were sent to bed first.

If they were found later at the kitchen, their ears were boxed and they were made to promise never, never to mention it to anybody, even to Nanny.

The family knew that if the story got round the chap would be black-balled in every club in London.

Harry Pollitt wouldn't care if every club in London blackballed him. He never stood a chance at the Carlton, anyway.

But he will care if he becomes a comic figure in the eyes of the English, because the English have a way of destroying everything they dislike by ridicule.

Hitler was never taken seriously in England because of his silly moustache.

He was also a foreigner, which made him much sillier.

Mussolini was another foreigner, even sillier than Hitler.

He was also a little fat man who made a lot of fuss, an unforgivable crime among people who eat dried eggs without a murmur.

By his name Harry Pollitt is not a foreigner.

From his photographs he does not appear to wear a silly moustache. So far he has not made a great deal of fuss.

But he is the high priest of a political philosophy which the majority of Englishmen detest, not because in practice it is as evil as Fascism, but because

(1) It is likely to cause a lot of fuss and trouble, and

(2) Because they believe it was invented by a hairy foreigner, Karl Marx.

In England a hairy foreigner is even funnier than a clean-shaven foreigner.

Therefore, there is no political future for a man who allowed himself to be kissed by a comic Italian, and is likely to become a musical joke in consequence.

If, rather than be kissed, he had hit Togliatti on the head with the nearest bottle of champagne, he would have been a national hero for at least a week.

Diary of a worm

FRIGHTENED worm, who has been unable to buy meat and has been unlucky in a dozen rallies, stays late in low tavern trying to find courage to face wife.

Oh, so my lord worm has come home at last, has he? Clever my lord worm who was going to beat black market and show spies where they got off has come home without even sausage, has he?

Of course, wife should have had more sense than to trust worm with any greater responsibility than posting a letter.

Past experience should have taught wife not to listen to boastful worm's talk of witty worm friends who know other witty worms in poultry world; of witty worm friends who can produce ducks like conjurers producing rabbit out of hat; of worms who know other worms who know even more remote worms who are waiting to see half share in Polish goose or couple of stringy Rumanian ones.

So far as wife can see, worm must be known throughout City as prize sucker.

For three weeks now smart alec worm has been pouring money over counter in low taverns, buying phoney raffle tickets, treating tricky worms who know other tricky worms in poultry market, and generally making himself laughing stock of spiv worms and hangers-on.

Wife wouldn't mind so much if money lavished on spiv worms had produced something, even if it was only half Polish goose or even half Turkish pigeon.

Wife wouldn't have minded if worm had gone to dirty Communist friends and got quarter of Russian duck so long as he didn't come home empty-handed when it was too late to try anywhere else.

As it is, of course, wife will be only woman in Worm's-avenue with nothing to put in oven, while lucky gas manager's wife, who has married man of initiative and influence, has 20-pound turkey, brace of ducks, and proper English goose as reserve.

Naturally, wife wouldn't expect smart alec worm to get same results as gas manager, because, after all, worm is a nobody and gas manager is a somebody.

While worm wastes time and money in low taverns, hob-nobbing with agents and hare gas manager, who knows tip tops of poultry world by Christian names, merely telephones a tip top and asks tip top to lunch at exclusive London club.

Next day gas manager rings up tip top of wine trade and over another lunch orders all wines and spirits he wants.

Moreover, as gas manager only goes in for proper rallies and has won case of champagne, gas manager's wife will probably serve champagne cocktails before dinner behind new curtains.

And while gas manager, in full evening dress, is making clever speech to laughing guests over coffee, worm in shabby utility suit full of useless raffle tickets will sit down to uneatable beef from Arren-tine without even glass of cooking sherry to offer wife or drink her health in.

Letter from a cow

DEAR Sir,—As one of your content readers may I crave the hospitality of your valuable column to utter a protest on behalf of cows?

According to the papers, people in a rural district of Leicestershire have been complaining that they are obliged to drink water from springs used by cattle.

Unless the cattle have foot-and-mouth disease, which, I believe, is not transferable to human beings, it is difficult to understand the reason for the complaints.

Before modern sanitation men and cattle drank from the same springs. So far as one knows neither came to any harm from it, as spring water is constantly renewed and is probably much healthier than tap water.

But, assuming that harm did come of it, which of them do you think suffered from infection, men or cattle?

I think any dentist would answer that question without hesitation.

Instead of complaining about drinking from the same springs as cattle, who are destroyed if they are unhealthy and eventually slaughtered if they are not, it might be more reasonable if the people of Leicestershire complained about drinking tea from improperly washed cups smeared with lipstick.

Or, if they have nothing better to do they might protest against eating unwrapped bread, frequently handled by many unwashed hands.

Or they could complain, with some justification, of eating fly-blown fish in the summer time.

So far as cows are concerned we eat nothing but the purest food. Our teeth are perfect. We drink nothing but water.

If comparisons were not odious I could enlarge upon the phrase "Sweet as a cow's breath," but will content myself with the observation that if we are good enough to eat we should be good enough to drink with.

Michael lost his Crown—twice

by W. N. EWER

EX-KING MICHAEL OF RUMANIA, hands with his father and the Emperor Napoleon the distinction of having abdicated twice.

He holds the unique record of having been succeeded on the throne by his father, and then having succeeded his father.

When King Ferdinand died in 1927, the Crown Prince Carol had been excluded from the succession, partly because of his divorce, partly for political reasons. And the five-year-old Michael became King.

But three years later Carol came back in triumph. The boy king abdicated. His father became King Carol. Michael became Crown Prince, for ten years.

But in the spring of 1940 Carol was forced by threat of an "Iron Guard" revolt to abdicate. Eighteen-year-old Michael became King a second time.

PEACE MOVE

HE was King all through the period of German control of Rumania. Reports of his attitude varied. Some said he was virtually a prisoner; others that he collaborated quite willingly.

But when the German front in Bessarabia began to collapse and the Russians were moving towards Bucharest the King acted decisively. On August 23, 1941, he issued a proclamation announcing that he had ordered the cessation of hostilities and the formation of a Government to make peace.

Rumania accepted the Allied armistice terms; the Rumanian armies turned round and fought, as co-belligerents against their recent German allies under a Government of National Union.

UNDER ORDERS

AND then in February, 1945, just after the Crimea Conference, Mr. Vyshinsky, without any consultation with the King, appointed Dr. Groza Premier of a Communist-controlled Government.

Michael obeyed. He was now—it has been his fate to hold records—King of a country under Communist control.

Once he tried to assert himself. In August, 1945, he called on Dr. Groza to form a new Government which would, in accordance with the Yalta Declaration, "broadly represent all democratic elements in the population."

Dr. Groza flatly refused to do anything of the kind. Again Michael adapted himself to circumstances and announced that he regarded the Groza Government as fully representative.

He sat for a few months, refusing to sign decrees. Then he came back, opened Parliament in State, amid Communist cheers.

LAST PHASE
BUT relations, under the surface, were becoming very strained. And they became more strained when, in one of his intermittent moods of firmness, the King refused assent to a change of constitution which would have made it possible to sentence the veteran Dr. Mironescu, first premier of the Government of Liberation, to death.

There was some surprise when he was allowed to leave Rumania, to attend Princess Elisabeth's wedding, and some expectation that either he would refuse to return or that he would be deposed.

But instead, after the wedding, he went for a short while to Lausanne, became engaged to Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma, and then went home to get the Government's approval of the marriage.

It seems to have gone back in complete confidence that all would be well.

Clearly there was no notion that Dr. Groza was preparing not a royal marriage but an abdication.

Six other kings in Southeast Europe have abdicated or been expelled since 1939.

In addition to Michael's father, Carol, King Zog of Albania was driven out by the Italians at Easter, 1939. King Peter II of Yugoslavia was deposed on November 29, 1945.

King Simeon II of Bulgaria was deposed in 1946.

The late King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy abdicated in May, 1946. His son, Umberto, ceased to be King following a referendum in favour of a Republic in June last year.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

HOW are your nostrils? Are you at all conscious of them while you talk? If you find yourself squinting at them, it is a sure sign that they have begun to stick out at the edges.

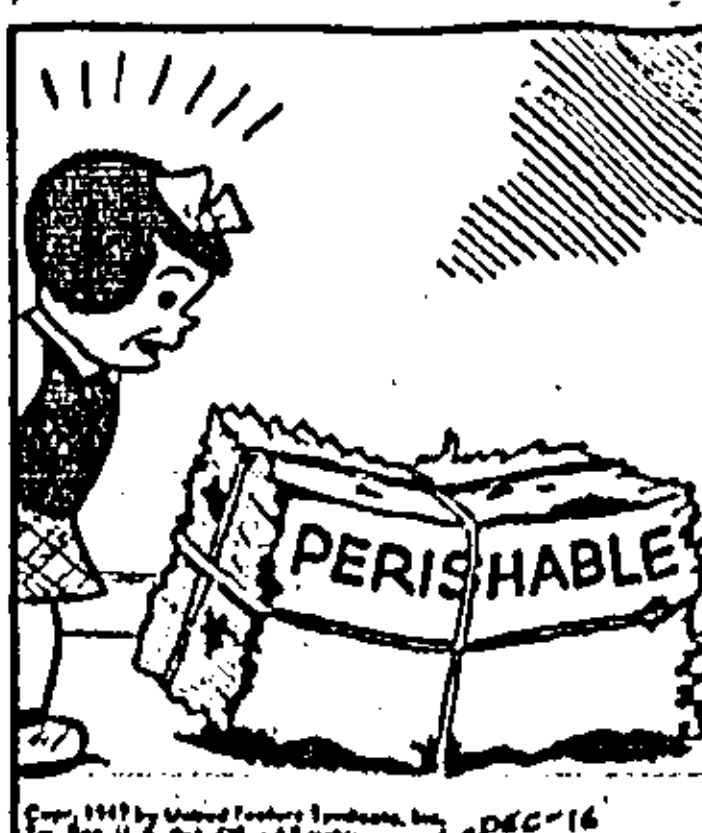
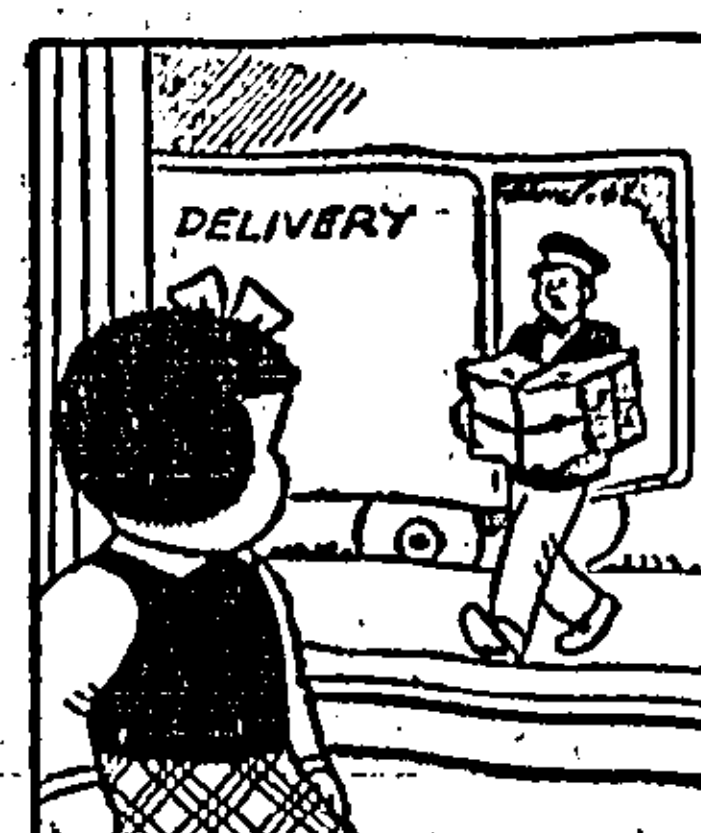
Do not let this get on your nerves, as if it does you will wake in the night and turn on the light to peer at your nostrils, or start to compress them nervously with your finger and thumb. All you need do at the first sign of such middle-aged nostril-spread is to procure a couple of small abutments to stick on to the cheek on their side of the nose.

Falling this try Hume and Weaver's nostril clips, and develop that rather smart nasal twang in your speech. Hh-ec-nalla.

Mme. Zaphroma
MME. ZAPHROMA, called by the M.M. Committee to interpret the presence of a trouser-button in one of the ferrets' entrails, said, "Aristarchus of Samos said that eight of the Signs of the Zodiac were button-shaped before the Ptolemaic system established the phenomena of storms and inundations as a clue to terrestrial occurrence, by hepatoscopy, nilbilism, phenology, aquamancy, and Kab-bilistic thanatonomy. This ferret attacked a man and wrenched off a trouser-button."

Ther letter
O MINISTERS, We will be given, please, licences for a stout plank of which to replace that which was broke on the belly of Ashura in the vestibool of the Hotel Majestic during see-saw.

NANCY The Finishing Touch



Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Read what Lois Leeds says about lines and wrinkles.

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—I have deep lines around my eyes and a great thin line on my nose. Should I have any cream or no cream?"—MILLIE T.

Plastic surgery (face lifting) is the last resort because it must be performed by a top-ranking plastic surgeon. Plastic surgery can be softened and smoothed by firming and tightening the skin. The use of a resurfacing and a rich oil or cream will do much to "youthify" the skin.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Is eating between meals harmful?—L. C." Eating between meals tends to spoil your appetite and it also puts excess weight on you. If you feel really hungry between meals, drink fruit juice or nibble on some celery.

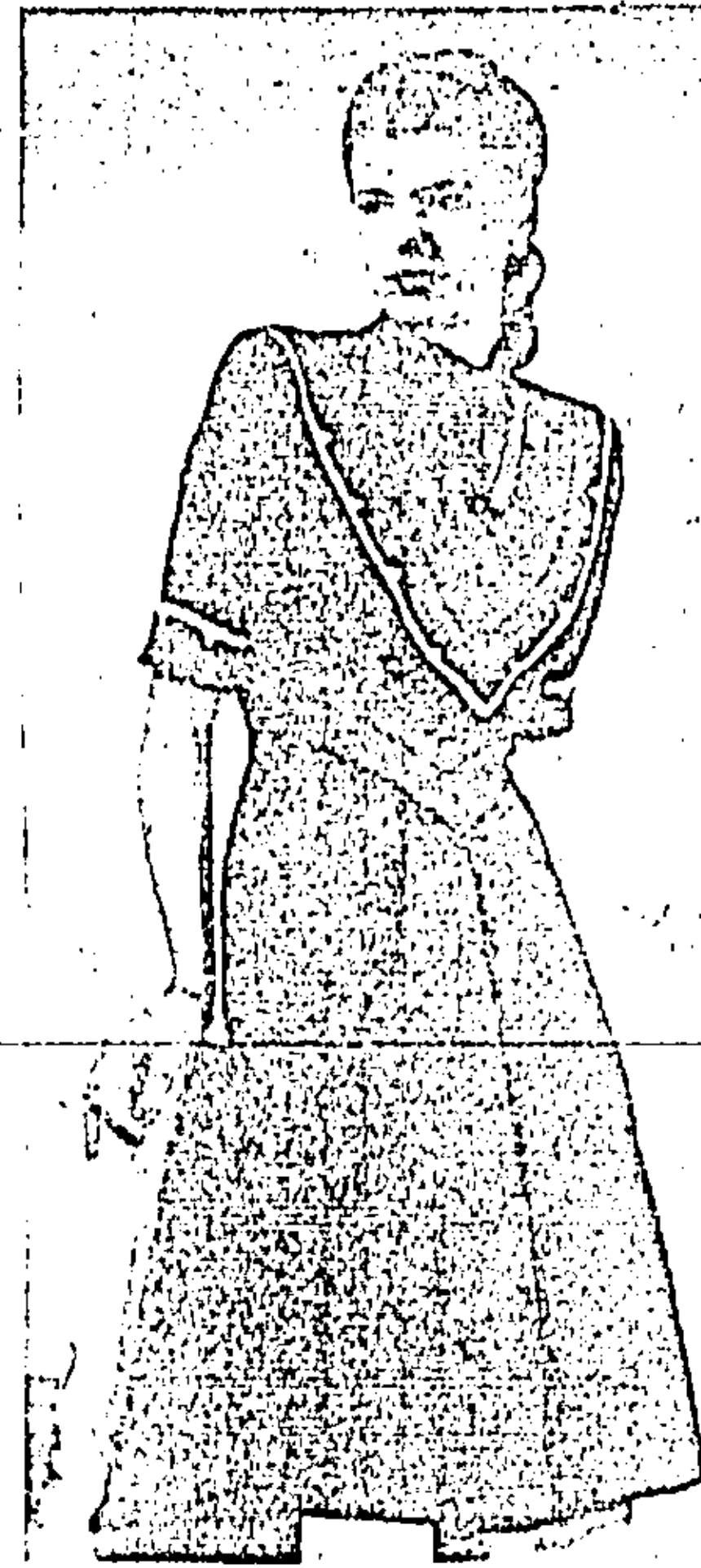
"Dear Lois Leeds—Are wide gold bracelets to be worn on the left arm or the right arm? I have two of them and a necklace to match. Should I get a pin and earrings?"—NELLY.

Wear a bracelet on each arm, that's smarter. The necklace is

"Dear Lois Leeds. The back of my hair is black. The front is almost white. What must I do? Should I bleach the back of my hair or dye the front?"—SIS."

Neither. You can't bleach hair white. Be an individualist and let your hair alone. Do it in a very smart style and always be sure to keep it shining-clean and healthy.

A Dress For The Plump



For once the not so slim lady has been remembered with this becoming style of a woolen dress. The blouse has a V-shaped front which is repeated on the skirt and these slant lines have a very slenderizing effect. With its white pique ribbon it looks very smart.

Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



You can relieve tired feet by soaking them in warm water for two or three minutes, then plunging them into cold water for a second or two. Repeat and repeat. Dry them with a rough towel and massage with cream, working the fingers well into the balls of the feet. Remove the cream, and rub the feet with an eau de cologne, which is as cooling as an iceberg!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Junior is serious about that new girl of his, all right—he asked me how about getting on that programme that gives away iceboxes!"

The Deaf Man Sees—The Blind Man Hears

Friendships that begin in the Army sometimes last, sometimes don't. But the one that began in Malaya in 1941, when Ned King met Phil Howarth, looks like lasting a lifetime.

DUST & GAS GIVE BIRTH TO PLANETS

Some new evidence to support a theory that the sun and planets, like the earth, were born out of huge clouds of cosmic dust and gas was described by Dr. Fred L. Whipple of the Harvard College Observatory.

New stars, and possibly, planetary systems, might be in the process of formation now in this way, he told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The theory is that a star and its planets are formed from a cloud of dust and gas, which may originally be thousands of billions of miles in radius. Pressure might push particles into such a cloud.

Over a period of tens of millions of years, the cloud would shrink or condense as streams of dust and gas moving about in the clouds collided with each other. The process would speed up with the cloud contracting, for much faster as it grew smaller, the final collapse into a new star might come relatively quickly.

New Evidence

The new evidence for the theory comes from mathematical calculations of the original diameters that the planets would have to possess before their final condensation, and the amount of heat that would be generated on the planets for a short period of time, as months or a year.

These calculations, Dr. Whipple said, have shown striking consistency. The heat on a few planets was so high that it would burn off the atmosphere around them, and also burn the satellites near them.

We said that the theory still has "some major uncertainties of physical reality," but also striking characteristics of predicted development that are consistent with the solar system as we observe it today.—Associated Press.

HCL WIPING OUT HAREMS

The high cost of living in Morocco is slowly wiping out the harem. Consequently, more and more Arabs are restricting themselves to one wife at a time, writes AP correspondent Robert C. Wilson.

The Korean entitles a man to four spouses, in addition to an unlimited number of concubines. But, it is just too expensive these days.

Before the war, an Arab could "buy" a wife for 5,000 francs. Today it costs from 10,000 to 200,000 francs.

An Arab can divorce merely by telling his wife before witnesses: "It is better for you to return to the house of your brother."

Should it happen that the wife is guilty of a serious offence like adultery, the husband can even get his money back.

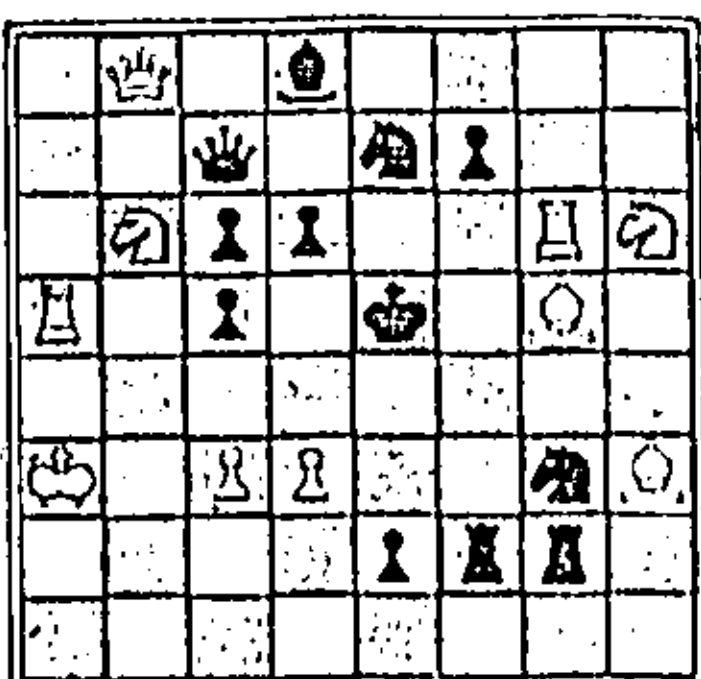
When he marries, he gives a sum of money to his wife's parents with which they outfit her with clothes and the cushions that constitute the furniture of an Arab room. In divorce cases in which the wife is seriously at fault, the parents are obliged to return the money.

Check Your Knowledge

1. What is believed to be the oldest scientific instrument?
 2. Hurrenburg, in Bavaria, will be remembered in future years as the place where the top Nazi criminals were tried. For what was it known in the past?
 3. Name the six republics of Central America.
 4. Who produced the first incandescent light?
 5. What is the national hymn of Canada?
 6. Where is Loch Lomond?
- (Answers on Page 4)

CHESS PROBLEM

By F. NOVEJARQUE
Black, 12 pieces.



White, 10 pieces.

White to play and mate in two. Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. Q-K8. 1... K-B4. 2. R-B4 (ch). 1... Kt-K6. 2. R-B5 (ch). 1... others, 2. Q-B5.

They said in Sydney recently that they couldn't get along without each other.

Because, apart from their deep regard for one another, Ned is blind, Phil is deaf.

Ned hears for Phil, and translates conversations into sign language.

Phil sees for his friend, then describes things to him.

The same bomb that caused Ned's blindness caused Phil's deafness.

It struck their prison camp in Siam during an Allied air raid.

They recalled: "We were captured together in Singapore, and moved to various prison camps in Malaya."

"We were separated for a while, then caught up with each other in Siam."

Bomb Finished Job

Said Ned: "I was beginning to go blind through malnutrition. The bomb finished the job. Now I have no hope of getting my sight back."

Said Phil: "Doctors in the camp operated on me to try to prevent me becoming totally deaf, but they couldn't do any good."

Since their return to Australia in 1945, the two have lived together on Ned's farm at Vineyard, near Riverstone, in New South Wales. Ned is 46, Phil 34.

At the movies, which they attend regularly, Ned tells Phil the dialogue in rapid signs, and Phil describes the scenes.

Tired of farming, the two went to Sydney to see officials about a rehabilitation course.

A course in coffin-making, which is a non-mechanical industry, was recommended to Phil.

Deaf people are not asked to work with machinery, because they can't detect the faults usually traced by sound.

Ned: "Phil will learn coffin-making. I may learn to do the polishing. We intend to stick together. Our friendship is what makes life worthwhile. It will never be broken."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN HOLLYWOOD

Employment among screen actors is at the lowest ebb in the history of the film industry. President Ronald Reagan, president of the Screen Actors' Guild, said in Los Angeles.

Of the Actors' Guild membership of 8,500, only 600 are under contract to studios, he said.

"Proportionately, that represents the largest unemployment in any industry in the nation," he pointed out. "Studios producing 50 pictures a year before the war now are turning out about 10."

He attributed much of the blame for the actors' economic straits to greatly increased theatre attendance and failure to construct additional theatres, with the result that films are held for longer runs and there is less need for new pictures.—Associated Press.

NEW RECORDS

Here are four records to enliven any party. Harry Davidson and his Orchestra play a "Burn, Burn, Burn" version of "Blaze of Glory" in old-time style. (Decca F. 8794.) "The Palms Glide" and "The Cokey Cokey" are very well introduced by Harry Lender and his Party Dance Orchestra. (Parlophone F. 2259.)

Ted Heath and His Music give an up-to-date and stylish version of "See Me, Dance the Polka" with Jack Parnell singing "Dickery Dock" as backing. (Decca F. 8814.) And you will get a good laugh from Spike Jones and his City Slickers playing "The Puppy Love Song," "One Hour," and "Pop Corn Sack." (HMV BD. 1198.)

ROBERT TREDINNICK

Rupert's Silver Trumpet—4

Rupert and Willie listen carefully and, sure enough, faint, exciting sounds come from far across the common. In a moment they are scrambling towards the music until they meet a brass band marching through a cutting. "Ooh, soldiers!" shouts Willie. "No, I don't think so," cries Rupert. "It's the village band from Down Down. Don't they play splendidly!" "I tell you what," says Rupert, "let's march with them and see if we can keep in step!"

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McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Novice Falls Into 6 Diamonds-Makes

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

MANY clubs, YMCA's and other community groups not only provide instruction in bridge but also hold regular card parties and duplicate tournaments. Joseph Madison of San Francisco, Calif., wrote me that he and his wife, who played auction for several years, recently started contract with a series of lessons at the "Y." He was quite proud of the fact that Mrs. Madison made six diamonds on today's hand.

She made a fine two-diamond bid with only a three-card suit to tell her partner that she had a pretty

AK983.					
A104.					
J10763					
None					
1075					
Q752					
44					
KJ87					
Dealer					
Mrs. Madison					
Q2					
J3					
AQ2					
AQ10953					
Tournament—Neither vul.					
South	West	North	East		
1♠	1♥	1♠	Pass		
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass		
4♠	Pass	4♥	Pass		
5♥	Pass	5♠	Pass		
6♥	Pass	6♥	Pass		
Opening—♥2					

strong hand, especially in view of his free spade bid.

They were using the Blackwood convention, so Mrs. Madison's bid of four no trump asked for aces and the five-heart response showed two. However, I think that when she bid five no trump she really wanted to play it there. But as that also is a Blackwood bid, asking for kings, her partner bid six diamonds to show one king.

Mrs. Madison decided to stay there rather than risk the bid of seven clubs, which of course would have been a calamity.

She played low from dummy on the opening heart lead and East won the trick with the king. The four of spades was returned and won in dummy with the king. The jack of diamonds was led, and when refused to cover, Mrs. Madison let it ride, then led the three of diamonds, flossing the queen. Then the ace of diamonds picked up the king and the ace of clubs was led, dummy discarding the ten of hearts.

It was useless to try to ruff out the club suit because Mrs. Madison had no entries back to her own hand. She depended entirely upon the spade break, and when it worked her contract was made.

SHOWING TO-DAY **KING'S** At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 AND 9.30 P.M.



ALHAMBRA THEATRE

TO-DAY ONLY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.



ORIENTAL

SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20—9.20 P.M.

THRILLING TOGETHER... IN A LOVE-STORY THAT BUBBLES WITH JOY, SPARKLES WITH SONG, DAZZLES WITH DANCING!



TO-DAY & TO-MORROW **Cathay** AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

CRUEL... RUTHLESS... HATED AS ANY KILLER WITH A GUN IN HIS HAND!



* NEXT CHANGE * THE MOST THRILLING ADVENTURE! ALAN LADD AND GERALDINE FITZGERALD in "O. S. S." "the screen's most secret adventure!"

SHOWING TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

J. ARTHUR RANK PRESENTS Margaret LOCKWOOD Patricia ROC Dennis PRICE Basil SYDNEY in

"JASSY" in Technicolor NEXT ATTRACTION THE BEST PICTURE OF 1947!

"The Best Years of Our Lives" Starring: Myrna LOY Fredric MARCH

**BOY (14) KILLED
MAN (77)**

Hertford, Feb. 17.—A 14-year-old boy was convicted here today of murdering a 77-year-old man and was ordered to be "detained at the King's pleasure," which means that the case will be dealt with at the discretion of the authorities.

British law does not permit the death sentence for offenders under 18.

It was stated that the boy, Anthony Dickinson, fired a rifle at several people. The defending counsel declared: "It must be obvious some extraordinary storm took place in this boy's mind—he was behaving like a madman."—Reuter.

TSALDARIS' ATTITUDE TO PARLIAMENT

Athens, Feb. 17.—Foreign Minister Constantin Tsaldaris said today he would welcome the suspension of the Greek Parliament.

Tsaldaris' Populist (Royalist) Party has been opposing the move in recent weeks against strong Liberal Party agitation. Minor Party leaders oppose suspension, calling the proposal a "steamproller."

The Liberal newspaper, Nea, said a group of Parliamentary deputies have a measure ready for the suspension, and that there is no question but that it will be passed.

Tsaldaris and Premier Themistokles Sophoulis, a Liberal, both have said deputies could not serve the country by being in the government on the eve of the government's offensive against the guerrillas in the north. An opposition leader reported that "they are just trying to get rid of us."

Meanwhile, seven Communists of a Leftist band were executed in Athens by order of the Kastoria military tribunal. Dispatches listed 11 others put to death at Kephallonia, five at Salonika and two at Tripoli. Military tribunals had condemned all for participation in Leftist bands and criminal activity. —Associated Press.

Joe Louis Forces Good Contract

New York, Feb. 17.—The recent negotiations between Joe Louis, holder of the world heavyweight title, and officials of the Twentieth Century Sporting Club, on the terms for his next title defence in the outdoor stadium next June resulted in one of the best contracts that a boxer has ever received for a title match.

The champion forced the promoters to cut him in on the movie, radio and television receipts—something that has never been done before. —Reuter.

Briton Wins
London, Feb. 17.—Billy Thompson, British lightweight champion, won the European lightweight title by outpointing the Italian holder, Roberto Protti, over 15 rounds here tonight. —Reuter.

Freddie Mills Still Top
London, Feb. 17.—Britain's Freddie Mills retained his European lightweight championship Tuesday night by knocking out Pico Bueno of Spain in two rounds.

Bueno took a terrific beating in the first round and was almost out on his feet at the bell. He went down in the second from a short right to the chin.

Mills weighed 173 pounds, Bueno 175. —Associated Press.

CAVES POPULAR IN AMERICA

New York, Feb. 17.—Ever since the atom bomb was dropped, cave exploring in the United States has been booming.

Guides at caverns say their customers usually round off a tour by asking timidly how safe it would be to be in a cave in an atom bomb raid.

Archaeologists hope that the sudden interest in caves will lead to the discovery of underground chambers rivaling the famous Mammoth Caves in Kentucky or the Carlsbad Caves in New Mexico.

Intelligent persons have been reading about atomic warfare and other means of destruction, and they find a feeling of security in a cave. —Reuter.

CHILD BORN ON PAVEMENT

Leeds, Feb. 17.—The Leeds police tonight traced a woman stated to have walked away and disappeared after giving birth to a baby in the street.

The child was born on the pavement in Middleton, a suburb of Leeds, with passers-by acting as midwives.

Householders later discovered the unclothed baby, blue with cold, besides the road. They sent for the district nurse, who spent nearly three hours reviving the child. —Reuter.

TRUMAN FACES HARD DECISION OVER PALESTINE

BY R. H. SHACKFORD

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Palestine partition plan is forcing President Truman ever closer to a decision on one of the most dangerous diplomatic problems in recent United States history.

An almost immediate verdict is called for on whether the United States Government will oppose or support a formal recommendation that the United Nations create a special army

to police Palestine while the country is being partitioned. President Truman knows, as all the others know, that whatever he decides, he will be damned by some. The President's position is not enviable.

The United States was the leading supporter of the plan. It had hoped at first that the Arabs were bluffing with their threats to wage a holy war against partition. That hope seems to have been without foundation.

Thus the United States must decide what it is willing to do to put the plan into effect in face of Arab opposition.

President Truman will be under heavy pressure from both sides—those who have always opposed partition and who think it should be revised to a Middle East civil war, and those who think the United States morally and legally committed in the United Nations to accomplish partition.

The Alternatives

The President's alternatives include:

1. Do nothing and let the Arabs and Jews fight it out. That means a long civil war in a region which the United States armed services consider vital to the nation's security. Middle East oil is considered absolutely essential to the success of the Marshall plan. A "do nothing" policy would intensify instability in an area already tense and jittery, and create a political vacuum into which Communism could step. Such a policy would be a body blow to American prestige—perhaps a death blow to the United Nations.

2. Support and urge creation of a United Nations police force to do the job. This raises the question of whether Russian troops could be included. If not, would it place Russia in one of the most strategic Middle East spots. President Truman has not decided whether the United States would be willing to contribute to such a force.

3. Seek revision of the partition plan or delay the effective date which at present has been set for later than October 1. This would be an embarrassing responsibility for the United States to assume domestically. It would not be popular with the Jewish groups, and this is election year. Political Zionism has been an active international force since 1907 and is increasingly active in the United States. The United States vote at the United Nations Assembly is interpreted by world Zionism as an American promise. —United Press.

Censor's Ban

Jerusalem, Feb. 17.—The Palestine press censor banned today on "security grounds" the press publication of photographs of the United Nations Palestine Commission secretariat, some of whom are expected here shortly from Lake Success, New York.

The staff of the Commission will live and work in a building which is today in the strongly guarded King David Hotel, which houses the British civil and military headquarters. —Reuter.

Tripoli Trouble

Tripoli, Feb. 17.—A "state of emergency" and a dusk to dawn curfew were proclaimed here today after British troops had been called out to disperse demonstrators protesting against the arrest of a Tripolitanian political leader, Ali Fiki Hassan.

Three demonstrators were killed and eight wounded. The troops used tear gas after police charges had failed to disperse the crowd. British troops and police were stoned. Hassan and his secretary were arrested for "reasons of public security" and interned near Tripoli, but will be allowed to give evidence before the Big Four Commission appointed to report on the former Italian colony to the Foreign Ministers' deputies. —Reuter.

China Atom Project Caused Big Laugh

Peiping, Feb. 17.—Mr. N.Y. Tsze, physics director of the Peiping National Academy, said he "got a big laugh" from the report that the Academy plans an atom bomb defence project.

He said the report that a committee has been organized to co-operate with the Academy on atomic defence was news to him.

He added: "The whole thing boils down to our asking the government for US\$400,000 to continue nuclear fission studies begun in the war. Naturally these studies will not be very advanced. China lacks the necessary funds and conditions." —United Press.

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WALLACE PARTY STRENGTH TEST


New York, Feb. 17.—The potential strength of the third party movement led by Mr. Henry Wallace and its possible impact on the re-election prospects of President Truman were being tested today in a Congressional bye-election in the Bronx borough, New York City.

A Wallace-backed American Labour Party candidate is standing in a four-man contest in the normally Democratic Congressional district.

The Labour Party, a New York State party only, is supporting Mr. Wallace for President and he has spoken in support of its Congressional candidate. —Reuter.

DAB AND FLOUNDER

—by Walter




"Now relax and just stick with me, I've been to these things before."

Russians Defend Prewar Grab Of Territory

Moscow, Feb. 17.—A Soviet official statement published today defended in detail the Soviet expansion into Finland, Poland, the Baltic States and Rumania in 1939 to 1940, and accused the United States and Britain of conducting secret peace talks with Germany behind Russia's back in 1941 and 1943.

BAO DAI RETURNING THIS WEEK

Paris, Feb. 17.—Bao Dai, ex-Emperor of Annam, is expected to leave Cannes on the French Riviera in two days' time and proceed to Geneva on his way to the Far East, a French spokesman announced today.

Bao Dai left the French capital early last week after his projected discussion with M. Emile Bollaert, French High Commissioner for Indo-China, was postponed.

He arrived in Cannes on Saturday and has been staying with his family in their villa before returning to Hongkong.

The spokesman declared that talks between Bao Dai and M. Bollaert on French Indo-China, where fighting has been going on for more than a year between French troops and Vietnamese Nationalists, would take place at some later unspecified date.

Bao Dai was to have had an interview last Friday with M. Bollaert on board a French warship in Indo-China waters.

Bao Dai last week had conversations in Paris with the French Premier, M. Robert Schuman, and other Ministers and officials on the terms of a peace settlement in French Indo-China. —Reuter.

Strikers Back At Work

Brussels, Feb. 17.—Gas and electricity workers who have been on strike since Thursday for a five per cent pay increase returned to work today though some adopted a "go slow" policy.

Other news from the strike front in Belgium today was that Brussels tramwaymen, who had threatened to stop work to protest against the Government decree mobilising gas and electricity workers, called off their strike and that some of the mines which have been idle resumed work.

One strike, however, no nearer solution is that of the 30,000 Belgians who daily crossed the frontier to work in north-east French factories and who claim to have suffered a 45 per cent wage cut through the devaluation of the French franc.

Disaffected with an offer by the French authorities, they voted to continue their strike, which is already eight days old, while negotiations are continuing in Paris. —Reuter.

Illegal Immigrants

Singapore, Feb. 17.—Immigration officers said that 187 Chinese were arrested last week trying to enter British Malaya from Hainan Island. Naval patrols intercepted several junkloads of other Chinese before they could land. —Associated Press.

GRAHAM REPORTS TO U.N. ON INDONESIA

Lake Success, Feb. 17.—The United Nations Committee of Good Offices told the Security Council today that Indonesia has achieved a delicate peace which, with good faith, can blossom into greatness and helpfulness to the whole world.

The United States member, Dr. Frank P. Graham, spoke before the Council tracing the establishment of the military truce and 18 political principles leading to an independent United States of Indonesia.

Dr. Graham warned: "The truce must be kept and the political principles upheld so that the two great peoples may have under God a rendezvous with greater destiny. May they not fall mankind in this desperate hour but fulfil the opportunity of their greatness."

Dr. Graham was optimistic but emphasised that the United Nations work in the dispute had accomplished only the first step, and the future depended on the good faith of both sides.

"For the United Nations, Indonesia is not only strategic in time. Continuation of this bitter struggle would be tragic to both in time and place," he said.

Strategic Position

Dr. Graham cited Indonesia's geographical, political and commercial strategic position, and emphasised that the islands now need desperately reconstruction and spiritual rehabilitation.

"In an age of hunger, starvation and sickness, the world needs its products. Sounds heard on the radio now should not be of fighting but of the production of rubber, tin, quinine, petroleum and other products the world needs. A real peace and maximum production are what is needed," he said.

Dr. Graham praised the sincerity of the Indonesians from the light to centre and to left, and recalled that the Republic survived "police action"

imposed by the Dutch Government. He said Dutch colonialism has been relatively enlightened, and since the turn of the century has paid increasing attention to Indonesian welfare.

Gandhi's Inspiration

He said that the solution would "brighten the lives and sustain the hopes of the peoples all over the world in this fateful but hopeful hour. The whole world is looking on to sustain and encourage leaders of both sides."

Dr. Graham expressed confidence that the Indonesians and the Dutch would "work as hard" on peace as they did in the conflict, and change the situation "from reprisal to forgiveness, from distrust to common faith, from bullets to ballots, from disunion to union and from military lines to lines of political democracy."

He said the Dutch and the Indonesians and the whole world should be "inspired by the life and death of Mahatma K. Gandhi, who reminded us that pure spirit without arms is mighty to achieve a way of great spiritual communion of mankind, for which he died to guide us all." —United Press.

They Gave their Lives.

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Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 3.30 p.m.

Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, Peiping, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow and Kowloon, 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times By Sea & Train

Canton (Train) 7 a.m. Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m. Shanghai (Sea) 10 a.m. Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m. Canton (Train) 2 p.m. Bangkok (Sea) 2 p.m. Shanghai (Sea) 2 p.m. Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m. Hongkong (Sea) 5 p.m. Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Closing Times By Air

Shanghai, 2 a.m. (reg); 9.30 a.m. (ord). Manila, P.I., 11.30 a.m.

Bangkok, Singapore, Batavia, Colombo, Sydney and Auckland, 3.30 p.m.

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